

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/816,344	FENG, LI-JEN	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Nihir Patel	3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03.31.2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03.31.2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

Henry Bennett  
 Supervisor/Patent Examiner  
 2004/03/09

### DETAILED ACTION

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Keith Kline on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended as stated below:

The mask tightening strap comprising an arc-shaped adjustable fastening unit, two straps, two pressure pieces, and a frame for the mask, whereby said two pressure pieces are configured at a central portion on an exterior surface of said arc-shaped fastening unit;

fastening straps of said two straps are respectively pivotally affixed to each of the side pieces of said frame, and free ends of said traps are each threaded through two sides of said arc-shaped fastening unit; and said straps are then folded back along the exterior of the two sides;

and characterized such that the inner sides of said traps are sleeved within a strap cover close to said frame, an hollowed-out section, or hollowed-out portion, is defined by the side of said fastening strap configured to enable a retaining ring of a snorkel to clasp onto the strap through its said hollowed-out section, thereby completely separating said retaining ring from the diver's skin.

Claim 2 is amended as stated below:

Art Unit: 3743

The mask tightening strap according to claim 1, on which there are a certain number of strap loops, said hollow-out section of the strap cover, and the strap loop are attached near the end of the frame in order to completely cover said strap.

***Reason for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1 through 3 of application number 10/816344 are allowable over the prior art of record in that the mask tightening strap comprising an arc-shaped adjustable fastening unit, two straps, two pressure pieces, and a frame for the mask, whereby the two pressure pieces are configured at a central portion on an exterior surface of the arc-shaped fastening unit; fastening straps of the two straps are respectively pivotally affixed to each of the side pieces of the frame, and free ends of the straps are each threaded through two sides of the arc-shaped fastening unit, and the straps are then folded back along the exterior of the two sides; and characterized such that the inner sides of the straps are sleeved within a strap cover close to the frame, an hollowed out section or hollowed out portion, is defined by the side of the fastening strap configured to enable a retaining ring of a snorkel to clasp onto the strap through its hollowed-out section, thereby completely separating the retaining ring from the diver's skin.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

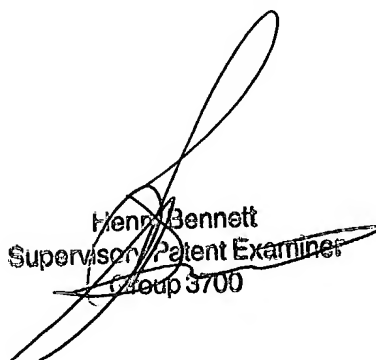
Art Unit: 3743

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nihir Patel whose telephone number is (703) 306-3463. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 4:30 every other Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 703-308-0101. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NP  
August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004



Henry Bennett  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700